

The War Paper for Women

VOTES FOR WOMEN

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE UNITED SUFFRAGISTS

VOL. VIII. (Third Series), No. 348.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1914.

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THE ONLY WAY



DRINK INTERESTS: "Give women the vote? Certainly not. Women with votes always get temperance legislation passed. Why, it would stop drinking, and then, where should I be?"

ANTI-SUFFRAGE TEMPERANCE REFORMER: "Quite so!—I mean, ahem!—Let us rather, in the interests of temperance, shut all women out of the public-house and stop their allowances."

DRINK INTERESTS: "By all means. Women are the temperate sex, so *that* won't ruin me!"

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DEDICATION

To the brave women who to-day are fighting for freedom: to the noble women who all down the ages kept the flag flying and looked forward to this day without seeing it: to all women all over the world, of whatever race, or creed, or calling, whether they be with us or against us in this fight, we dedicate this paper.

THE OUTLOOK

This week we enter on the fourth month of the European war, and it is estimated that something like three millions of men of all nations can now be counted as killed, wounded, or missing. Every day adds a chapter to what even the *Times* calls "a dull and terrible story of simple slaughter"; every day hundreds of brave fellows, for whom mothers once risked their lives, are being maimed or killed because statesmen have found no better solution than war for their international quarrels.

Desolation in the Home

The suffering entailed at home is incalculable. In thousands of homes there is sorrow and mourning, or anxious watching for news that never comes. All this is the toll paid for war; and brave women, whatever their feeling about the ethics of war, are no less courageous in paying it than are the men at the front. But much of their suffering is preventable, and after three months of war we maintain that the Government has had ample time to frame its promised scheme of pensions, instead of condemning the widows of soldiers to subsist on a beggarly five shillings a week plus charity. As the *Daily Citizen* says, the soldier

has come to realise that if he leaves his home and his job for the drillground and the trench, his wife and his children are going to be the victims of a "war on women and children" no more merciful than the war which the bullets and bayonets of drunken Prussian soldiery waged on the women of Belgium.

This is the "greater war" in which Suffragists are always engaged.

War and the Drink Question

All kinds of solutions are being suggested with regard to the increase of drinking among men and women, except the right one, which our cartoonist cleverly depicts this week. While Government schemes are on foot for providing distractions to keep soldiers out of the public house, the authorities can only suggest in the case of women a compulsory exclusion from the public house or a stoppage of their allowances, insults with which we deal in our leading article. We recommend to the police inspector who voiced these proposals in the Westminster police court, last week, a perusal of the accounts for the city of Leeds during the municipal strike last winter, one of the items of which is 4,954 pints of beer ordered for the police!

Action Taken by the U.S.

On behalf of the Committee of the United Suffragists, Mrs. Ayrton Gould has addressed a letter to the Prime Minister asking if it is true that the Government are contemplating these further curtailments of women's liberties while leaving those of men, admittedly the less temperate sex, untouched. The letter continues:—

We should further condemn both as dishonest and cruel any attempt on the part of the War Office to curtail the separation allowance, which is not a reward for good conduct, but the discharge of a debt owed to these women by the State.

This new threatened danger to women proves

afresh that it is never safe for suffragists to declare a truce.

A Cryptic Document

It is to be hoped that unmarried soldiers and widowers have a special talent for advanced mathematics, for the man of ordinary capacity will scarcely be able to unravel the complicated Government scheme, just published, for providing separation allowances for their relatives. The only thing that is clear about it is that unless a compulsory allotment is made from the man's pay the Government will not subscribe anything at all. Already a kind of domestic storm has been raised over the compulsory allotment deducted from the married soldier's pay, and we do not suppose the unmarried man will like it any better. Really, it looks as though there would be less, rather than more, dissension in the home if women had the vote and were allowed to use their vast household experience in framing a scheme whereby the soldier and his family could be honourably maintained.

The New Scale of Relief

The Government Distress Committee have made a tremendous bid for glory in the new scale of relief recommended by them in connection with the Prince of Wales's Fund. They suggest ten shillings per week as the typical sum for one adult person—the suffrage movement has apparently at last killed the heresy that it should be half-a-crown less for a woman—with a maximum of £1 for a whole household. This, low as it is, is a higher scale than some local committees have adopted; but we fear that the small amount allotted from the Fund to some of the poorer districts of London will still tempt the local executives to stoop to all kinds of subterfuges for evading its generous administration, especially where voteless women are concerned. Our correspondent, "A Member of a Relief Sub-Committee," gives on page 46 two instances of such mean evasion.

Distress Among Women

The unemployment among women is now acknowledged to be so great as to have induced the Local Government Board to offer to the Central (Unemployed) Body for London a sum of £1,000 from the Parliamentary grant for the establishment of four more workrooms, to be conducted on the conditions laid down by the Central Committee on Women's Employment. We are sorry that the grant is made in this form, for the Central Committee seems to us to have a tendency to temper employment with charity, and low wages with hot soup or floral decorations, in a way that would not be tolerated in the case of unemployed men. But when we read that in the period from July to October, this year, 8,310 applications for work were received from women, as against 507 in a rather longer period last year, we realise the urgent need there is for something to be done.

Where the War Might Help

Where the war might reasonably be expected to provide work for women, it appears only to sweat them. According to the report of the Bethnal Green medical officer, some of the prices being paid to home-workers for making army outfits are, to put it mildly, inadequate. Here are some of the rates given:—

Making and finishing blue serge tunics, 2s. 6d. each; complete finishing. Thread and silk purchased from the firm.

"Jean" kit-bags, 4s. 6d. dozen; finished. Have to purchase own cotton and thread.

Finishing khaki trousers, 2s. dozen. Have to purchase own thread.

The vast majority of home-workers are women, and it would not be possible for the sub-contractor to sweat them in this way if they had the protection afforded to the men by the vote and all that it means.

Does a Man Support His Wife?

Our readers will remember the leading article written in this paper some years ago by Mrs. Pethick Lawrence—"Does a Man Support His Wife?"—and the controversy which it aroused. In it she stated and proved the fact that a wife brings to the household more than the equivalent of her own maintenance. The principle of the economic value of the wife's services in the household has now, for the first time, we believe, been acknowledged in the Courts. The question arose in a workman's compensation case in which a married woman, in addition to her household duties, earned wages as a charwoman. In the course of her employment she fell from a ladder and died of her injuries. Her husband claimed compensation.

The Wife's Economic Value

The employer in estimating her economic value to her family proposed to deduct from her wages the cost of her own maintenance. Judge Mellor, sitting in the Manchester County Court, overruled this view, and said:

The death of a mother brings a distinct loss in addition to that of her earnings, because it means that the family will have to engage a respectable woman to do the household work in her place.

He therefore awarded compensation on a higher scale. For fuller details we refer our readers to the *Manchester Guardian* (October 30).

Mrs. Pethick Lawrence in America

News has been received from New York of the great success of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence's first meeting in America, which took place in the Carnegie Hall, New York, last Friday. The Governor of New York State was present and spoke. Mrs. Lawrence herself dealt with the necessity for women in every country to unite to render war—a form of race suicide—for ever impossible in the future. A sum of \$46,000 (£9,500) was raised at the meeting on behalf of the suffrage campaign funds. We are informed that a very good report of the meeting was given next day in the New York papers.

Items of Interest

We go to press on the eve of a momentous election contest in America, where the suffrage fate of seven States—North and South Dakota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, and Ohio—is to be decided by the Referendum. Needless to say, our warmest good wishes are with our American sisters at this crisis.

A half-step backward has been taken in the New Zealand Legislative Council, where a clause has been rejected from the Legislative Council's Reform Bill which would have enabled women to sit in the Upper House. Both Houses have now agreed to a compromise by which the Council undertakes to admit women as soon as they are made eligible for the Lower House.

It is reported that a shipload of Turkish women, including the Suffragist, Mme. Melikhanum, have been deported from Constantinople for their anti-Government campaign.

As we go to press we learn that an agreement has been arrived at between the Commissioner of Police, the Chairman of the London Central Board of Trade Protection Societies, and the London Brewers' Council, by which all licensees within the Metropolitan Police District should be asked on and after Monday next not to serve women with intoxicating drinks, either on or off the premises, before 11.30 a.m. The military authorities in Birmingham have issued an order that no intoxicating drinks shall be served to soldiers before noon or after 8.30 p.m. In the men's case—applying to a much smaller area—only soldiers are affected, and these at least can feel they chose their rulers at the last general election. In the other case, all the women in a much larger area are coerced by a rule made by men who are not responsible to the women of the country. The Suffrage Flag must be kept flying at all costs, or this irresponsible coercion will rapidly become worse.

TO LONDON READERS.

DON'T FORGET Our PUBLIC MEETING

IN THE

PORTMAN ROOMS

(Baker Street, W.)

Thursday, November 5, at 8 p.m.

(Particulars on opposite page.)

Articles and News contributed for insertion in *VOTES FOR WOMEN* should be sent to The Editors, *VOTES FOR WOMEN*, 4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, E.C., at the earliest possible date, and in no case later than first post Monday morning prior to the publication of the paper.

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—The Scotsman.

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1914.

WOMEN AND DRINK

Wine and women are alternatively regarded as temptations against which man has to fight, and as alleviations with which he may pardonably dally. In the reaction that will follow the war, they may hope to be promoted again to the latter position; in the actual stress and strain of war itself they must be content with the former. When the virile journalist writes "Women and Drink" at the head of an article, he may mean either that women take too much to drink or that the efficiency of our armies is threatened by the existence of drink and of women. If he means the one, he sometimes goes on to advocate that women should be excluded from public houses; if he means the other, he sometimes goes on to advocate that women should be—well, no, not excluded from camps exactly, but priced and branded and as far as possible stripped of their womanhood.

Women will scarcely know how to contain their admiration for these proposals. Now that all the men of the country have voluntarily taken the pledge, and the public houses which depended on male patronage have been transformed into Christian meeting houses for the propagation of the doctrine that you should love your alien enemy as yourself, it is but right that our rulers should extend to women the protection which women have not the strength of mind to extend to themselves. It only remains for men to deny themselves sexual indulgence as rigorously as they deny themselves alcoholic indulgence, and the need for legalising prostitution will be removed. Yet, perhaps, it would be as well to be on the safe side, and to intern all women in concentration camps for the period of the war. Concentration camps are the proper places for people who are not loyal citizens, and women are obviously not loyal citizens, for they are not citizens at all.

In all seriousness, we do not see how the logic of the above paragraph could be questioned by those who still nurse the old obscene idea that woman is an instrument of man's pleasure—that she exists not socially, not individually, but only sexually. "I know not how," says Bacon, "but martial men are given to love; I think it is but as they are given to wine, for perils commonly ask to be paid in pleasures." That is the old way of thought; that expresses the habit of mind of men who couple "women and drink" as the temptations of masculinity. But since Bacon's day we have progressed, not only in our estimate of love, but in our estimate of martial men. We no longer regard soldiers as roistering barbarians for whom the appropriate epithets are "brutal" and "licentious." We see to-day hundreds of thousands of quiet, industrious, amiable men, who hate war and licence and brutality, taking up arms in the spirit of self-sacrifice, going out to kill and be killed because they consider it their duty. For

such men, the strength against temptation is furnished by idealism. Their safeguard against venereal disease is not regulation, it is the habit of regarding women as comrades and equals. It is loyalty to the dignity of sex.

And as for the other aspect of "women and drink," under which we are to regard women not as temptresses, but as tempted, themselves liable to drown the ache of misery in drink—here, too, there is a clean and simple way out of the difficulty. Women at all times notoriously drink far less than men; if, as is said, some of them are now being driven to the public house, that is not because of any increase in depravity, it is because the wisdom of male legislators and administrators has left thousands and thousands of wives and widows tied hand and foot by poverty, unable to warm their own homes because they cannot afford coal, unable to get and communicate news because they cannot afford newspapers, abandoned, in fact, to the public house as the one place that will give them warmth and comfort and companionship—and the casualty lists. The solution (which incidentally would also hearten the men at the front by removing anxiety, and fortify the coming generation with food and warmth against ravages more cruel, more costly, more extensive than the ravages of war)—the solution, clearly, is in more clubs for women, more money for women, better homes for women. And none of these things can be fully and effectively obtained without votes for women.

One last word as to the contemptible suggestion of Mr. Biron, a Westminster magistrate (a suggestion called "salutary" by the *Daily News and Leader*) that women, and women alone, should be forcibly excluded from public houses. His suggestion is only less dangerous than the intimation it provoked from a police inspector to the effect that the authorities are contemplating a police order in this direction, and further contemplating the curtailment of the separation allowance where it appears that this is spent on drink. This proposition is the more insulting because the alleged increase in female drunkenness is largely the Government's own fault. Many women were left without money for weeks and then suddenly given £5 down—and every doctor knows how starvation may awake a craving for alcohol. Even so, Mr. Biron knows, the *Daily News* knows, everybody knows that drinking is infinitely less prevalent among women than among men. We should not object, we should applaud, if the Government showed the same courage as the Russian Government in this matter: let public houses be shut (and publicans compensated); let grocers' licenses be stopped; let no one be allowed to purchase alcohol except with a doctor's prescription. Why is this not done? Because the men would not stand it. The drink interests would not stand it. In short, the voters would not stand it. But any insult is good enough for a London magistrate to throw at people without votes. We do not at this crisis wish to dwell on the unsavoury subject of the gross unfairness too often shown in the past by police-court magistrates; we say only that for sheer impertinence and partiality Mr. Biron's suggestion will occupy a place of honour in that record of shame.

THE HOSPITAL STOBART IN ANTWERP

By Florence A. Stoney, M.D., B.S.Lond.

(The first instalment of this account appeared in last week's VOTES FOR WOMEN).

II.

Our X-ray apparatus, owing to the generosity of Lady Cowdray, was the best portable set to be procured. The twelve-inch coil was such that it could work on the main or with accumulators; owing to war conditions in Antwerp the supply of current was insufficient for direct use, and I had to work it off accumulators. In selecting the apparatus, I was very greatly assisted by my sister, a Cambridge wrangler and a lecturer in physics. People often think physics useless and unnecessary for doctors, whereas here physical expert knowledge was essential to real efficiency. The X-rays proved, I believe, of really very great use. I had brought over an American Coolidge tube, costing £25. I had seen these tubes in America last Spring, and formed a high opinion of them. There were only three others in England when I bought it, and, as far as I know, it was the first to be used outside England and America, and the first to be used under conditions of war. Many Antwerp doctors were interested in seeing the working of this tube. It proved very good for our purpose, as it could be regulated with ease to any required vacuum, and stood long periods of use without altering. I did the whole work of the department with this one tube.

Localising a Bullet

The chief point about this department was that I was able not merely to see the bullet by X-rays, but to localise accurately its position in relation to the neighbouring structures by a Mackenzie Davidson localiser, which proved invaluable for getting the exact position of the bullets; then the ball could be extracted very rapidly, through a small incision, as the surgeon knew exactly where, and at what depth, to find it. Thus one ball, I could say, was opposite such a place on the radius and two inches deep; a ball in the pelvic region was four inches from the posterior surface. One case when accurately localised took only seven minutes to have a small piece of shrapnel extracted from between the joints of the foot. Anyone who has not tried it can hardly realise how difficult it is to find a bullet in a thick, muscular limb. I saw a Belgian officer lately in London who had been operated on unsuccessfully in front of his shoulder to remove a bullet, and all the time, as was afterwards shown by X-ray localisation, it was lying behind the bone, where it would have been much easier cut down upon if the surgeon had only known; also saving the shock of a useless operation. As it happened, this Belgian was fortunately brought to London, and to Sir James Mackenzie Davidson, our leading pioneer in X-ray localisation, to whom I am indebted for much help and advice. Such accidents we were saved in Antwerp by estimating exactly where and how deep the foreign body was before any operation was started.

Bullets and pieces of shrapnel we only removed when they distinctly caused trouble—that is, were pressing unduly on a nerve, muscle, &c., or were causing sepsis (blood-poisoning). A rifle bullet passes through a limb, leaving merely slight sepsis behind; a shrapnel ball

more often lodges, causing severe sepsis, and has, therefore, to be extracted. Among our cases I X-rayed two men—one with a round lead shrapnel ball six inches into his lung, the other with a conical rifle bullet, also deep in his lung; neither caused any trouble, so we left them alone.

Keeping Pace with the Cases

Doctors Watts, Ramsay, and Hanson worked hard. We had several bad injuries to knee-joints, one with the patella smashed to pieces, another with shrapnel lodged in the internal condyle. There was only one case of gangrene, in a man horribly injured by shrapnel in the hand, arm and thigh. The latter had to be amputated, and he did excellently. This was only one of several operations we did the last day; we were operating almost all day long at the end to keep pace with the cases.

We had over 200 patients during our short period of service, mostly Belgian, but a few English. Officers and men alike submitted absolutely to our treatment in everything we thought necessary, and they were so brave and uncomplaining it was a pleasure to do all we could for them. We had to give anaesthetics for the smallest operation, as their nerve was strained by the incessant shell-fire. This equally has been the experience elsewhere.

The Bombardment

On Wednesday, October 7, at midnight, came

the bombardment. We were near an arsenal, in the quarter of Berchem, in the direct line of fire; our building was of wood, with inadequate cellars; the risk of fire was too great, and we had to move our patients into safety. When the shelling of the town began, all of our patients who could do so walked away out of range; the other seventy helpless cases we got into the cellars in twenty-five minutes by the light of candles, as we dared not show much light. These, during the next day, we placed in safer hospitals, &c., most of them being taken in motor lorries to Ostend. By 6 p.m. on October 8 we were free, and ourselves left the battered city.

That this shell-fire is no joke was shown by a hole, 6 feet deep, ploughed in our garden by one shell; the house opposite had fallen, others were blazing furiously, and the roof next door had been blown off. The ground near the hospital was littered by fragments of metal. It is a marvel how patients and staff, going constantly backwards and forwards through the streets, lived through those eighteen hours under shell-fire without a single one being injured. Very great credit is due to Mrs. Stobart for the way she conducted our retreat to Ostend.

Nearly all the X-ray apparatus was lost at Antwerp, but already Sir Charles and Lady Parsons have given us another set; and as soon as the other stores lost are also replaced we hope to go out again, probably to France.

THE "ANTI'S" WORLD

The anti-suffragist point of view is never so much in evidence as in the book of etiquette. In the curious world where writers of books like "The Ways of Society" assume it is necessary to learn manners as one would learn a foreign language, the subjection of woman appears to be complete. In the chapter on "Balls" in Mrs. Danvers Delano's book, we learn, for instance, that young men who condescend to frequent the ballroom do not necessarily go there to dance, but "to look on and be amused." In the chapter called "The Luncheon Party," the "unfortunate" man who comes home early "and finds a bevy of ladies," is told he "must make the best of it." Occasionally an effort is made to equalise the sexes, as when we are instructed that—

A woman should always comport herself to please, and a man should remember that to be well-groomed and well-dressed is his duty, either at home or abroad.

The young woman, as she appears in these pages, is no more like a human being than the young man. There is one who confesses that she married because she "was so tired of being taken in to dinner by the youngest man in the room." And the following gem of a sentence occurs in a chapter on "Tips"—

The protective care of a trustworthy guard is particularly agreeable to a lady travelling alone.

At the same time there are occasional home truths in the book which make one feel that perhaps, after all, it does refer to the world we know. Here is one of them—

Articles are often to be met with at a bazaar which can never be seen or purchased elsewhere.

But these little human touches are rare, and the world of etiquette seems to be, for the most part, a strange, unfamiliar place, in which people are only restrained by rules from being abomin-

ably rude to one another, and where they do not even give one another enough to eat. "Dinners," we learn—

are not as long as they used to be, and not nearly so substantial; in fact, it is almost necessary to have a few sandwiches ready on your return home.

You are not, however, allowed to poison your guests, even in the highest society, and if the fish has gone bad in the hot weather, you are told "rather than that your friends should die of ptomaine poisoning, you should call immediate attention to the fact and stop the dish being handed."

We suppose there are people who like this sort of thing, as some like melodrama and picture palaces; but we do not know where they are. Certainly not, we should think, in that real world where dinners, alas! are often, nowadays, not so substantial as they used to be.

E. S.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The British Empire Universities Modern English Illustrated Dictionary." Latest Edition. Chief Editor, Rev. Edward D. Price. (London: Syndicate Publishing Company. Price £1.)

"The Woman who Looked Back." By H. Hamilton. (London: Stanley Paul. Price 6s.)

"The Laughter Lovers' Vade Mecum." (London: Stanley Paul. Price 1s. 6d. net.)

"The Englishwoman." November. (London: Evans Bros., Ltd. Price 1s. net.)

"The Last of the Huns." By Dr. George Saunders. (London: Routledge. Price 1s. net.)

"Short Cuts to First Aid." By a Metropolitan Police Sergeant attached to R.A.M.C. (London: Stanley Paul. Price 7d. net.)

"The Sunlight Lay Across My Bed." By Olive Schreiner. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. Price 6d. net.)

"Woman and War." By Olive Schreiner. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. Price 6d. net.)

"Woman at Home." November. (London: 20, Tavistock Street, W.C. Price 6d. net.)

"Annual Report Bristol Municipal Libraries," 1913-1914.

"The Ways of Society." By Mrs. Danvers Delano. (London: T. Werner Laurie, Ltd. Price 5s.)

COMPARISON OF PUNISHMENTS

LIGHT SENTENCES

Manslaughter by a Man

The *Times* (October 28) reports case of a private home from the war on sick furlough, charged before Mr. Horace Smith at Westminster Police Court with the manslaughter of a man whom he knocked down with a stick in a drunken street fight. It was stated that, with the approval of the magistrate, the police did not propose to offer further evidence.

Sentence: Discharged.

Indecent Assault on a Child

John Bull (October 31) reports case of a blacksmith charged at Dufftown, Aberdeenshire, before Provost Stewart, Bailie M'Kay, and Bailie Maclean, with committing an indecent assault on a ten-year-old schoolgirl. He pleaded guilty.

Sentence: Fine of 30s., or 15 days' imprisonment. Fine paid.

HEAVY SENTENCES

Manslaughter by a Woman

The *Vote* (October 3) reports case of a starving mother charged at the Old Bailey before Mr. Justice Rowlatt with the manslaughter of her illegitimate two-year-old child. She had before abandoned an illegitimate child. She pleaded that she had no food or money, and could not get work.

Sentence: Ten years' penal servitude.

Begging Letter Fraud

The *Times* (October 22) reports case of a woman charged at the London Sessions with obtaining ten shillings from a lady, representing herself as widow of a sergeant killed in S. Africa. There were previous convictions.

Sentence: Fifteen months' hard labour.

WHY WE KEEP THE FLAG FLYING

Read the above Table of Comparisons!

This week's "Comparison of Punishments" is in itself a justification of the intention of this paper, and of the United Suffragists whose organ it is, to keep the Suffrage Flag flying during the war. We do this mainly for two reasons:—(1) To ventilate the disabilities under which women labour because they are voteless, and which continue no less in war time than in peace time; (2) To press for the woman's vote which is their only safeguard against further encroachments on their liberty.

The Two Wars

The recent cases in the Courts quoted above offer abundant proof of the righteousness of our cause. The first comparison is a speaking example of the two wars that are now being waged—the European conflict, in which men are the soldiers, and the industrial, social war that never ends in our own country, in which women fight as well as men, and, owing to their voteless condition, are fighting without weapons. In the first case we have a soldier taking the life of another man in a drunken quarrel. He pleads that he was wounded at Mons, that he did not mean to kill the man, that he had saved an officer's life by carrying him out of action when he was wounded. All these facts are taken into consideration; the police, with the approval of the magistrate, offer no further evidence against the man; the magistrate says of the man's gallant action under fire: "I am very glad to hear it. You are discharged." For his bravery and unselfishness in the European war he is pardoned for an impetuous action committed under the influence of drink which resulted in the death of another man.

The Other Soldier

And the other soldier? A poor, starved working woman of thirty, struggling in a Notting Hill tenement to keep herself and a little child whose father has deserted her, and breaking down under the hopeless battle against overwhelming odds—quite a common incident in that other war, the one that never ends in this country. She pleads that she was starving, the child was starving; she had had nothing to eat for three days, she had no money, she could not get work. The evidence at the inquest (commented upon by us in our issue of September 25) showed that only a crust of bread was found in the house, which was spotlessly clean—proof in itself of the gallant struggle that had been made by this private soldier in our industrial army. Hers was not outwardly so glorious a record, perhaps, as that of the soldier from Mons; but her struggle was none the less heroic. She had evidently done her best, and it was despair, not drink, that caused her in the end to commit the impetuous deed that led to the death of a fellow-creature.

But in her case the judge and jury seem to have shown no understanding of the fight she had put up, to have made no suggestion that further evidence need not be put forward. Her previous abandonment of another illegitimate child was to them proof of her own guilt, not of the guilt of the father in leaving her twice alone and unarmed in the fighting line—a thing no soldier would do to a comrade in the European war. So she was not discharged. For her there is a sentence of ten years' penal servitude.

Crime and Motive

We do not, of course, regard manslaughter lightly. We hold it an infinitely greater crime than theft or the innumerable offences against property which are almost invariably punished more severely in the Courts than manslaughter or other offences against the person. But in all crimes we consider that motive should be taken into account, and extenuating circumstances should be carefully weighed before sentence is pronounced. This was

done in the case of the soldier from the trenches at Mons. It was not done in the case of the soldier from the slums of Notting Hill. It is for these poor defenceless soldiers at home that we keep the Suffrage Flag flying.

THE ALIEN'S WIFE

The injustice done to the English wives of foreigners by our recently passed Nationalisation Act is made more and more apparent as the war goes on and more proceedings are taken against their husbands. Two cases occurred in the Courts last week, accentuating this injustice. One was that of a Scottish woman, married to a German who disappeared seven years ago; yet for failing to register as an alien enemy this British woman was made to pay a fine of £5 at Worthing.

The other case is that of the English wife of a German cook. The man was taken to Olympia, and the woman appeared before Mr. Biron at the Thames Police Court to ask for advice. They had paid £9 out of £12 11s. 6d. for furniture on the hire-purchase system, and now the firm threatened to remove the furniture because the payments had fallen into arrears through the man's imprisonment.

The wife was told that she was in the position of an alien enemy, and nothing could be done, though the magistrate was kind enough to add that some arrangement ought to be made. But, as we pointed out in our last issue, Deptford rioters who damaged the property of aliens were told that aliens had not lost their legal rights. Why did not Mr. Biron say the same to the wife of the German cook? Are we always to be forced to the conclusion that even real aliens, if they are men, have more protection in our Courts than their wives, who are only technically aliens but are women?

THE "RELIEF" MUDDLE

To the Editors of VOTES FOR WOMEN.

Dear Editors,—After three months those responsible for the administration of the National Relief Fund have realised that 3s. 6d. per week is not sufficient to maintain a woman left workless and destitute through the war. There yet remain other glaring faults in the procedure of the National Relief Committee. It is forbidden (I write of my own ward) to grant relief to a person still in employment. This may seem sound theory, but in practice it proves a stupid and short-sighted policy. I know a woman whose infant imperatively needs two minor operations. The mother cannot take the child to the hospital, because she cannot afford the fares, as her husband is only earning 10s. per week on half-time. This family are not eligible for relief (according to the local Relief Committee) because the husband is "in employment." A neighbour whose husband is unable to get any work is, however, eligible for the (revised) rate of 20s. per week! Is not this a direct incentive to people to refuse half-time employment?

Again, the refusal to assist families who are in distress, but yet are in receipt of a small wage, has caused the mothers to try and earn as well. One woman applied for and secured some needlework at the local Queen Mary's Workroom, but a new rule just issued lays down that no woman who does not usually work outside the home may be given employment, which, of course, denies work to many mothers. The plight of the mother who is thus prevented from augmenting the miserable family income is a crying shame. Refused aid by the National Relief Committee, and turned away from the Queen Mary's Workroom, what can a woman do? The exposure in VOTES FOR WOMEN of these conditions will, I feel sure, do a great deal towards securing the reform of the administration of the National Relief Fund.—Yours, &c.,

A Member of a Relief Sub-Committee.



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A WOMEN VOTERS' DEPUTATION IN NEW ZEALAND

The following extract from a letter written by a New Zealand woman voter, who is also a constant reader of **VOTES FOR WOMEN**, shows how different is the reception accorded by Cabinet Ministers to women's deputations when the women are voters. She writes:—"I had an interesting four days in Wellington early in July at a Dominion Convention of the Society for Health of Women and Children, to hear their views, join in deputations, &c. One was to the Cabinet as the House was in Session. How different from the Asquith crew! We met outside at 10 a.m., and led by a regal looking beauty clad in a seal coat (doctor's wife in Auckland), went straight into a fearfully hot Chamber, where Mr. Massey sat with his Ministers grouped behind him. Four women presented petitions in succession. Then Mr. Massey answered each in turn, and called on the Ministers of Health and Justice to speak also. All speeches were most favourable and encouraging, and the Prime Minister told us to apply again for anything we wanted, in or out of Session. So much for treatment of women in New Zealand."

COMING EVENTS

The Rev. John Hunter, D.D., is delivering a series of Sunday morning sermons at the Æolian Hall, New Bond Street. The subject for November 8 will be "Lessons of Hope Drawn from the Past: History a Source of Comfort for Distressed Spirits."

The New Constitutional Society will hold a meeting at the Kensington Palace Hotel on Tuesday, November

10, at 3 p.m. Speakers: Professor L'Abbé Noel, who will speak on his recent experiences in Louvain, and the Rev. Hugh Chapman. Chair: Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

The Women's Freedom League will hold a meeting at the Suffrage Club, York Street, Piccadilly, on Wednesday, November 11, at 3.30 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., on "Joan of Arc," and Miss Nina Boyle.

A concert, in honour of St. Andrew's Day, and in aid of relief of distress among relatives of Scots soldiers, has been arranged by members of the St. Andrew's Society, and will take place at the Fulham Town Hall on Monday, November 30, at 7.30 p.m. Among the honorary concert secretaries is Miss Margaret Grant, one of the earliest **VOTES FOR WOMEN** paper-sellers.

The United Suffragists will hold a Christmas Sale at Eustace Miles's Restaurant, on Friday, December 4, from 3 to 11 p.m. Proceeds in aid of the U.S. Women's Club in South London.

A CORRECTION

The National Union of Women Workers (Parliament Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.) write to inform us that it is they, and not the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, who have obtained permission from the Home Secretary to organize a force of Women Patrols to work in the neighbourhood of camps and towns where soldiers are quartered, in the interests of women and girls. We gladly publish the correction, and are sorry that the error crept into our note on the subject in our issue of October 23.

The complete stocks held by the **GOLDSMITHS & SILVERSMITHS CO., LTD.**, 112, Regent Street, London, W., afford a ready choice for the selection of **ENGAGEMENT RINGS** and other **GEM JEWELLERY**, **WRIST WATCHES**, **GOLD** and **SILVER PLATE**, **CANTEENS** of **SPOONS**, **FORKS** and **CUTLERY** in **REGENT PLATE**, **DRESSING BAGS**, **SUIT CASES**, &c., suitable for Presents for all occasions. Illustrated Catalogue post free on application.—ADVT.

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THE REV. JOHN HUNTER, D.D., will deliver a series of Sunday morning sermons in the Aeolian Hall, New Bond Street. November 8, "Lessons of Hope Drawn from the Past: History a Source of Comfort for Distressed Spirits." Worship at 11 o'clock.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. ANDREW'S DAY. — SCOT-TISH PATRIOTIC CONCERT, in aid of dependents of Scots soldiers. November 30, 7.30 p.m., Fulham Town Hall. Tickets: 1s., 2s. 6d., 4s., from Margaret Grant, 36, Ridgway, Wimbledon.

THE NEW CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY for Women's Suffrage. Meeting Tuesday, November 10, at 3 p.m., at Kensington Palace Hotel. Prof. L'Abbé Noel (Professor of Philosophy at Louvain University). Rev. Hugh Chapman. Chair: Mrs. Cecil Chapman.

THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE holds Public Meetings at the Suffrage Club, 3, York Street, Jermyn Street, Piccadilly, every Wednesday afternoon. Speakers: Nov. 11, Mrs. Baillie, B.Sc., "Joan of Arc," and Miss Nina Boyle. The Chair will be taken at 3.30. Admission free.

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